



No Child Left Behind Tennessee's Education Initiatives

- Governor Phil Bredesen has added more than \$750 million new dollars to be distributed to Pre-K through 12 classrooms in Tennessee, approved by the legislature
- The Tennessee Formative Assessment Pilot Program uses online assessments throughout the year to gauge student progress and allow teachers to adjust instruction accordingly. This number of schools participating in the pilot increased from 37 in 2005 to 112 in 2006.
- The department launched Assessment Literacy training in January 2005 to help teachers and administrators better understand how to use achievement test data to improve approaches to instruction.
- New recruitment initiatives have helped identify quality teachers to fill high-needs areas. *Teach Tennessee* is an alternative path to licensure for mid-career professionals who want to teach math, science or a foreign language. BASE-TN is a statewide marketing push to recruit special education teachers.
- READ Tennessee is a new literacy initiative of the department that emphasizes preparing teachers of all grade levels to teach reading skills. As part of this initiative, adolescent literacy was a primary focus of the 2006 High Schools Summit and K-5 teachers could attend summer seminars on incorporating reading into all subject areas.
- Tennessee was the first state chosen to implement a growth model pilot for the purpose of recognizing progress under No Child Left Behind. Tennessee is also one of a minority number of states to have full approval of its annual assessments indicating they correlate with the academic skills students are required to master.
- Tennessee was one of five states recognized this year by U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings for making the greatest gains in closing the achievement gap for students with disabilities. The department has been focused since 2004 on efforts to emphasize inclusion and early intervention; qualified special education teachers; and research-based teaching strategies.
- Tennessee hosts five-day Teacher Quality Academies specific to different subject areas to help teachers gain the content knowledge and strategies to become Highly Qualified. Additionally, a new Math/Science Partnership Program pairs school

systems with colleges/universities to provide professional development to meet highly qualified status in these subjects.

- Tennessee contracted with national expert Dr. Stephen Constantino to conduct a three-year training program for school systems to enhance parent involvement in their schools. Research has shown that students whose parents are engaged in and supportive of their education perform better and are less likely to drop out.
- The department established an Urban Education Improvement Office for educators to share resources and ideas on how to address the needs of students in urban areas. More than 1,100 teachers, principals and administrators have attended training, in-service and conference sessions in addition to more than 30 school visits by departmental staff.